will not be setting up hereafter any new Free Trade Zone (FTZ)/Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/ Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on its own as it has been decided that EPZs/SEZs should be established either by the State Governments or in joint/private sector with the prior approval of the Central Government.

**Trade Growth Rate**

2958. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trade analysts feel that India can achieve an 18 per cent rate of growth of trade this year;

(b) if so, what are the projections of Government in this regard for this financial year; and

(c) what are the actual figures for the first quarter of this year and how they compare with the annual projection?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) An export growth of 18% has been projected for the year 2000-2001 in US $ terms over actual performance of last year.

(c) As per the DGCI&S provisional data India's exports for the period April-June, 2000-2001 has been to the tune of US $ 10194.34 million as compared to the performance of US $ 7986.28 million during the same period last year registering a growth rate of 27.65% which is higher than the 18% target fixed for the whole year.

**Import of Tobacco by Algeria**

2959. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Algeria discontinued import of millions of dollars worth of tobacco and other agricultural products from India since 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to resolve the issue and also promote sale of Indian tobacco to Arab and African countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Algerian (Government monopoly) agency M/s. SNTA has discontinued import of tobacco from India since 1994. Tobacco imports by

Algeria between 1990-91 and 1993-94 are as below:

| Year | Quantity (tons) | Value (Rs. crores) |
|---|---|---|
| 1990-91 | 500 | 0.71 |
| 1991-92 | Nil | Nil |
| 1992-93 | 3200 | 11.03 |
| 1993-94 | 3500 | 20.65 |

(*Source:* Tobacco Board)

From 1995-96 to 1999-2000 exports of other agricultural products to Algeria has ranged between Rs. 3.29 crores and Rs. 19.75 crores.

(*Source :* DGCI & S)

(b) M/s SNTA of Algeria has stopped imports of tobacco from India until the settlement of their claim for recompense of insect infected quantity of 230 tons by the Indian exporter. Imports of other agricultural commodities, however, continue.

(c) The Tobacco Board has directed the exporter to settle the matter with the Algerian importer and report to the Board on action taken. Export promotion efforts made in Arab and African countries include:

— visit of tobacco trade delegation to Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey in May, 1998

— visit of tobacco trade delegation to Libya, Egypt, Jordan and Algeria in February, 2000.

— Requesting the Government tobacco monopolies of Libya, Egypt, Algeria Iran, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Yemen to consider importing tobacco from India.

— Modalities for increased import of Indian tobacco have been emphasised in the Joint Commission meetings held with Morocco and Tunisia.

**Need to make Indian Industries Competitive**

2960. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that there is a need to make the Indian Industries competitive in the World stage following liberalisation, economic reforms and structural adjustments;